कम्पनियों द्वारा सार्वजनिक निर्माण कार्य तथा सड़क उपकर और आसनसोल खान बोर्ड का स्वास्थ्य उपकर का भी संग्रहण किया जाता है और इसकी पश्चिम बंगाल राज्य सरकार को अदायगी कर दी जाती है ।

Exeption of E.O.Us from Labour Laws

*15. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM :
DR. SANJAYA SINH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Confederation of 100 per cent Export Units has, recently, demanded that the E.O.Us. should be exempted from labour laws except for payment of minimum wages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) to (c) A memorandum has been received by the Government from the Federation of 100% Export Units on "Need to exempt 100% export-oriented units and units in the Export Processing Zones from labour laws".

Following are the suggestions made in the memorandum :

(1) All the export-oriented units/units in the Export Processing Zones should be declared as essential services.

(2) The Government should provide Exit Policy for companies which are doing 100% export to encourage more such to start up.

(3) For a limited period of 5 years, 100% EOUs should be permitted to function on the following basis, to encourage such units to be internationally competitive :

(a) Payment of Minimum Wages as applicable from time to time;

(b) Closure of units or removal of workmen to be permitted with necessary compensation without any permission;

(c) No other Labour laws to be applicable.

The suggestions are under examination.

Impact of Sapta

*16 SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement signed recently at the Dhaka, SAARC Summit would pave the way for greater cooperation among the countries of the region;

(b) what steps Government of India propose to take (i) to make new trade arrangement operational by the end of the year 1994-95, (ii) to move towards collective self-reliance and (iii) for quick identification of the commodities eligible for preferential treatment;

(c) whether Government of India propose to set up an independent SAARC Chamber of Commerce to deal with trade investment and services within the SAARC countries; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) The aim of the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) is to promote and sustain mutual trade and economic cooperation among the Contracting States. In accordance with the Agreement, which will enter into force thirty days after all the Contracting States have completed the formalities, the Contracting States now have to take the next step of negotiating tariff preferences on a product-by-product basis, Government will participate constructively in the negotiations.

A SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, comprising apex commerce and Industry associations of the member countries of SAARC has already come into be-